

October 6, 1999

and wholesale business. Throughout his life in the floral industry, he has demonstrated the highest regard for improving the lives of everyone through flowers.

I am proud to call Carm Cosentino my good friend, and I join his lovely wife Anne Marie and his family today in recognizing this professional achievement.

PROTECTING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) SPECTRUM

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill contains a number of provisions critical to protecting military access to the radio spectrum. We all know how important spectrum is to information technologies, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), which are critical to a wide range of military and civilian applications.

The importance of ensuring the continuous availability of critical information was demonstrated recently, when the Air Force successfully managed the so-called roll-over of the GPS clock—an event similar to the Y2K transition that we have heard so much about.

By successfully managing the GPS roll-over, the Air Force has ensured the continued stable reception of GPS signals by tens of millions of global users who depend on GPS for everything from air navigation and farming to guiding the war fighter on the battlefield and managing the Internet.

The concerns leading up to the Y2K-like rollover of GPS highlighted the potential global impact from any disruption to GPS services. To its credit, the Air Force, in close cooperation with industry, engaged in rigorous testing and analysis to ensure GPS signals would continue to be received through last month's transition. This effort upheld national policy, as expressed in both Presidential directives and Congressional legislation, that GPS signals will be continuously available and receivable at all times, everywhere in the world.

I and many of my colleagues believe it is in our national interest for the government and industry to continue to cooperate in ensuring that GPS spectrum is protected from disruption and interference. The GPS spectrum band is coveted by commercial interests because of increasing demand for limited international spectrum. The American public has invested well over \$14 billion to date to have the GPS services we enjoy today and we need to guard this investment from any harm. I urge the Department to continue its efforts to ensure GPS signals are continuously available in support of national policy, and applaud the continued strong congressional support for initiatives that will help us achieve that goal.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEDICATION OF THE NAVAJO GENERATING STATION SCRUBBERS

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an important construction project in my home State and District that has set a precedent for balancing economic values with the delicate needs of the environment. I am referring to the recent completion of a \$420 million air-emissions project at the Navajo Generating Station, or NGS, located near Page, Arizona, some 12 miles from the eastern boundary of the Grand Canyon National Park.

NGS was built in the early 1970's by the Salt River Project, or SRP, the nation's third largest public power provider, and a consortium of other utilities, to serve the needs to nearly three million customers in Arizona, Nevada and California. With a 2,250-megawatt capacity, the power plant is the second largest in Arizona and remains, to this day, one of the largest coal-fired power plants in North America. NGS participants include the Salt River Project, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Arizona Public Service Company, Nevada Power Company and Tucson Electric Power Company. A sixth participant, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, sells its share of NGS electricity for power pumps of the Central Arizona Project, a 336-mile canal system critical to sustaining agriculture, industry and development in the greater Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas.

At the time of its construction, NGS was recognized for its advanced environmental controls and strict compliance with the Clean Air Act of 1971. Amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1977, however, put the plant on a collision course with new laws aimed at protecting clear vistas at our nation's national parks. Studies completed by the National Park Service indicated that the plant may be contributing to haze over the Grand Canyon National Park. Environmental groups subsequently filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency demanding action to mitigate NGS emissions. Costly and protracted litigation, which would incur high costs to both taxpayers and customers of NGS, appeared inevitable.

Rather than litigate, SRP took the commendable route of seeking an environmentally and economically responsible solution to the plant's sulfur-dioxide output. With financing from NGS participants, independent and thorough scientific studies were conducted. While it was discovered that much of the haze in the Grand Canyon region derived from urban smog, dust, forest fires and visitor traffic at the Grand Canyon itself, it was also discovered that the NGS did contribute to Canyon haze under limited conditions.

In response to the results of the study, SRP and its NGS partners took the lead in reaching a balanced agreement to outfit the plant with additional emissions equipment. On September 8, 1991, I accompanied President George Bush and then-Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and others to the south rim of the Grand Canyon to witness the signing of

24295

the NGS Visibility Agreement, the first such compact under the Clean Air Act. In accordance with that agreement, NGS is now outfitted with three wet-limestone scrubbers capable of removing more than 95 percent of the plant's sulfur-dioxide emissions. The last unit was put on line this summer.

In addition, during the scrubber construction process, SRP was able to save \$100 million. The savings will be passed on to NGS customers at a time when the utility industry is being opened to retail competition.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 14, 1999, a ceremony will be conducted at the plant to commemorate the fulfillment of a promise made eight years ago. The Grand Canyon is one of the crown-jewels of our National Park System, with more than four million visitors a year. The Navajo Generating Station can no longer be credited with contributing to the haze at this national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication this month of the NGS Scrubbers exemplifies a true balance between economic and environmental values. This effort deserves wide recognition.

CELEBRATING PFIZER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc. on its 150th anniversary. As one of the global leaders in the important pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer has helped to improve the health of men and women around the world for the last century and a half.

Pfizer's long history is full of adventure, daring risk-taking, and intrepid decision making. Founded by German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart in 1849, Pfizer has grown from a small chemical firm in Brooklyn, NY to a multinational corporation which employs close to 50,000 people, including 219 men and women in its tradition of developing innovative drugs to combat a variety of illnesses. In 1944, Pfizer was the first company to successfully mass-produce penicillin, a breakthrough that led to the company's emergence as a global leader in its industry. Since then, Pfizer has marketed dozens of effective medicines designed to fight conditions like arthritis, diabetes, infections, and heart disease in humans, and infections, parasites, and heartworm in animals.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Pfizer has made innumerable contributions to our nation and our world, and I applaud Pfizer's accomplishments as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

BOLIVIA'S SUCCESSFUL COUNTER-NARCOTICS PROGRAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee I

wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an often overlooked story in the debate over the war on drugs in the Western Hemisphere—that being the surprising success story of Bolivia. Even today, as we consider providing additional counter narcotics aid to Colombia to fight the terrible scourge of the drug trade which has so completely engulfed that nation, there is hardly any mention of the success achieved in Bolivia and Peru nor of the importance of providing additional assistance to those nations. It would be critically important that as the Administration considers a new aid package for the anti-drug fight in Colombia that some additional money be included for Peru and Bolivia so that they can continue their progress and ensure that as the Colombians become more successful in their efforts, the drug trade does not return to these other nations.

Bolivia is a success story which many of my colleagues need to know more about. When the current government of Hugo Banzer took office in 1997, the President proclaimed a goal of ridding Bolivia of all illegal coca and cocaine by the Year 2002. Many people familiar with Bolivia's situation proclaimed their skepticism and said that the drug trade was too lucrative for the farmers and peasants of Bolivia to give up, at least not willingly, that there was too much corruption, that given the condition of Bolivia's economy at the time, the Government could not sustain any type of alternative crop development program to win the coca farmers over.

Now, just a little over two years later, Bolivia has successfully eradicated over 50 percent of the illegal coca crop and reduced re-planting to a historically low level. This story has not been easy, nor without problems but with the firm commitment of President Banzer to succeed and under the strong leadership and direction of Vice President Jorge Quiroga and the Dignity Plan, Bolivia is well on its way to meeting its goals. According to the Bolivian government, between August 1997 and October 1999, over 27,000 hectares of coca have been eradicated. 121,000 square meters of coca seedbeds have been destroyed and 225 tons of cocaine bound for the United States or Europe have been interdicted.

Through a combination of domestic political leadership and international support, mostly from the United States, Bolivia has been able to develop a successful strategy which balances interdiction, eradication and alternative development. It is the alternative development program which has been the real success story and one which could become a model for even Colombia if the guerrilla war in that country is ever brought under control.

Mr. Speaker, the integration of illegal coca farmers into the legal economy of Bolivia has been the most urgent priority of the government and has thus far been highly effective. But it is also the most fragile element of the strategy in that unless the alternative crops can be produced and gotten to market in a timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the

drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased